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Fixing Perth's public transport a priority

A survey carried out for the Committee for Perth has revealed that improving Perth's public transport system would be a priority for almost one third of respondents if they were Premier for the day. So strong was the response from the 505 Perth based residents to fix Perth's public transport that it was more than two times more important than improving public services such as health, housing and education.

"This answer doesn't really come as a surprise because Perth's worsening traffic congestion and at-capacity public transport system throughout peak periods are regular topics of discussion," said Committee for Perth CEO Marion Fulker.

The 'Perception of Perth' survey showed that while 80% of people were satisfied with the quality of their life in Perth there were a number of things that need to be maintained or improved for their satisfaction levels to remain high.

The survey results come as former transport Minister Alannah MacTiernan called for unprecedented investment in public transport to get Perth people out of their cars.

"The challenge for the government is to keep pace with our incredible population growth. Unless there is a decision made now about funding an integrated public transport system that includes extensive light rail connections, we will most likely find that people's satisfaction levels drop," Mrs Fulker added.

"There is consistency about what Perth residents want regardless of age, race and income levels. These shared perspectives across our community provide great clarity for government about the necessary investments that need to be made to ensure that Perth gets better with growth rather than suffers from it.

"The over-riding perception that came from the survey is that Perth is seen as being family friendly, a place of natural beauty, that has strong economy as a result of the mining and resources sector were all viewed as positive."

"We found that the older you are the more positive you are about Perth's future. We also discovered that all respondents have very high expectations about the level of services and infrastructure that will be available in the future," said Dr Jarrad Dunning of Ipsos who conducted the survey for Committee for Perth.

"While the current views of Perth are mostly positive, the people surveyed also identified that other aspects of Perth need to be promoted and maintained for it to retain its appeal. These included strengthening the perceptions of Perth as a friendly welcoming place that is suitable for families and young people, with more affordable housing and a place where innovative and entrepreneurial people live," added Mrs Fulker.

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